

**UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
District of Oregon**

PRESS ROOM



02/24/2007

Owner of Mail Order Divorce Service Sentenced to Prison for Tax Evasion

The Owner of this Newberg, Oregon Business Admitted his Crime in a Television Public Service Announcement Aired in his Home Town of Yakima, WA

Portland, Ore. – William Cleveland Thompson, age 63, of Newberg, Oregon, was sentenced yesterday before U. S. District Court Judge Anna J. Brown, to a prison term of one year and a day to be followed by three years of supervised release. In January, Thompson pled guilty to one count of Evading the Payment of Federal Income Taxes for the 1993, 1994 and 1995 tax years. Thompson admitted to owing \$159,918 in taxes for those years and tendered a check in that amount during the sentencing hearing.

“When individuals deliberately hide their income and fail to report their earnings to the Internal Revenue Service, they risk prosecution,” said Kenneth Hines, the IRS Special Agent in Charge for the Seattle Field Office, which oversees Oregon.

At the sentencing hearing Thompson’s attorney played a video announcement produced by Thompson in which he called tax evasion the “stupidest crime in America.” The announcement has been aired in Thompson’s home town of Yakima, Washington and urges those who attempt to evade taxes to stop doing so and cooperate with the IRS.

Thompson faced a maximum sentence of five years imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine, up to three years of supervised release, and a \$100 special assessment.

This case was investigated by the Internal Revenue Service – Criminal Investigation in Portland, and was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Lance Caldwell.

For additional information, please contact Public Affairs Officer Gerri Badden at the United States Attorney’s Office at 503-727-1033.